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UFONL
No. 54
OCTOBER
1977

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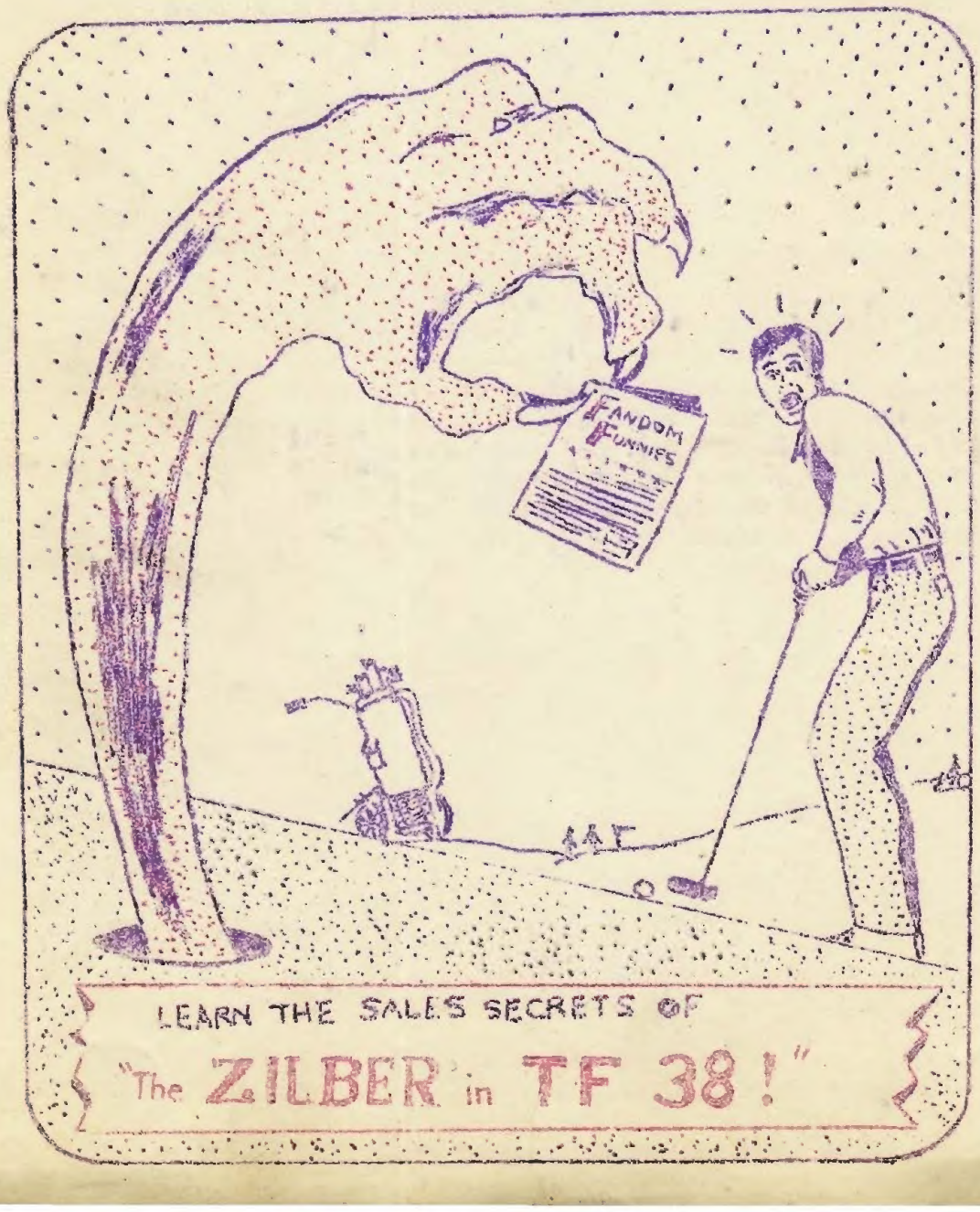

The Official Organ of the United Fanzine Organization Newsletter/apa:

TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS !!

The UFO Newsletter #54 (Vol. 4 #1)

October 1977

Chairman: Jay L. Zilber, Oberlin College Box 740, Oberlin Ohio 44074

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The Chairman is Dead, Long Live the Chairman! TF now has a bran' spankin' new chairman and a spiffy new look; Kurt, busy with such mundane things as Higher Learning, abdicates the throne to Jay Zilber with this mailing. Let's all wish Kurt lotsa luck and give Jay a rousing chorus of applause! Rah! Rah!

Checklist Changes Pull out last month's TF and (1) Drop OZ #11 (retain #9/10 in checklist at $1.00), (2) Drop all "Still Available" listings for OZ, (3) Drop CC&T #1 from "Still Available," and (4) Note Bill Mutschler's writeup for Entropy Cosmix #4 in one of his Sound Chasers this issue.

Speaking of Which: I'd like to suggest -- very strongly -- that from now on, during my term of office at any rate, all members should do their own write-ups for the checklist. In this way we'll hopefully avoid any future misunderstandings or differences of opinion. It's the only way to be sure that your write-up says exactly what you want it to say; each of you certainly have a better comprehension of your own zines, their image, their purpose, and by doing your own write-up you won't risk having to deal with a plug that reveals my personal biases or incorrect interpretation of your fanzine's purpose. Just include a brief write-up in your voting sheet and in

CONTINUED --->

Vital Statistics: TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS is published monthly as a newsletter/apa for the members of the United Fanzine Organization (UFO). TF is free to applicants, although Postage Money Is Still Officially Requested. Otherwise, 50¢ each, or 4/$1.50 (3rd Class) or 4/$2.00 (1st Class). Volume 3 back issues are in temporary stasis, but will eventually be again available at 5/$1.50. (Issues available are 6, 15, 16, 23-25, 27-37). Submit all letters on ditto masters. And as always, continue to list votes on separate sheets of paper, along with motions, seconds, and anything else of importance. This is WPCzine #44 (koff koff)

Roster

5.05 1. Kurt Erichsen, MSU-Owen Hall #648-E, E. Lansing, MI 48224
checklist: 1580 W. Myrtle Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
ENDEAVOR / AUGUST

$$& -.58 2. Steve Keeter, Rt. 2, Cape Colony, Edenton NC 27932
MANTRA / FEBRUARY / F

$%& .12 3. Vincent W. Kimszal, 1400 S. Stiles St., Linden NJ 07036
COMIX UNLIMITED / NOVEMBER / F

3.30 4. Jim Main, 85-A Prospect Hill Road, New Milford CT 06776
GNOME / HOLOCAUST / JULY / F

1.78 5. Tom Mason, 705 Draper Road, Blacksburg VA 24060
RADION / SEPTEMBER / F

% 4.24 6. Terrence McCoy, 1424-8th Street, Rockford IL 61104
CLYDE'S COMIX & TAILS / JANUARY / F

& 4.56 7. Rich Morrissey, 55 Claudette Circle, Framingham MA 01701
BATMANIA / JULY

2.09 8. Bill Mutschler, 327 Walker Hall, Princeton NJ 08540
checklist: 500 Crestview Rd., Wayne PA 19087
ENTROPY COSMIX, GRAPHEX / JANUARY (17 pages) /

2.00 9. Chris Rock, PO Box 14, West Plains MO 65775
checklist: Rt. 2 Box 265, Mountain Grove MO 65711
OZARK FANDOM / MARCH / F

% .41 10. Jay Zilber, Oberlin College Box 740, Oberlin OH 44074
checklist: 81 Webster Park, Columbus OH 43214
FANDOM FUNNIES, / GLX SPTZL GLAAH / NOVEMBER

Applicants

1. Chester & Cherie Cox, 606 Pearl Apt. 8, Monterey, CA 93940
FEEDBACK

2. Frank Veripapa, PO Box 647, Freeport NY 11520
FANTASY UNLIMITED

Speculation

& 1. Mark Gruenwald, 319 W 76th Street #15, New York NY 10023
OMNIVERSE

& 2. Craig Henderson, PO Box E, Bowie MD 20715
FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

& 3. Bill Paul, 111 Mount Pleasant Avenue, London Ontario N6H 1E1
MEDIA-5

4. Bill Sherman, 608 E. Douglas #2, Bloomington IL 61701
LUDICROUS SITUATIONS, LTD.

1.50 5. Kim Thompson, 3826 Florence Drive #6, Alexandria VA 22305
WOWIEKAZOWIE / F

Subscribers

4.50 1. Ron Baker, 3558 College Sta., Fredericksburg VA 22401 / F

3.30 2. Don Fortier, Box 209, Kenner LA 70063 / F

1.13 3. Ron Gomes, Computer Sys. Research Gr., University of Toronto, Toronto Ontario M5S 1A4

$$ .00 4. Ira Metetsky, 799 Vivian Ct., Baldwin NY 11510

3.13 5. Greg Swan, 555 N. Miller, Mesa, Arizona 85203

KEY : $ = You owe money. $$ = You owe lotsa money. Now! & = Last Issue if you don't write. % = Must publish soon. F = First class postage assessed. The month by your zine title is your publishing deadline.

(continued) your TF contrib as soon as your fanzine is published, if not earlier. (It would also solve the problem of What Happens If I Don't Have Time To Read Your Zine Before The Next TF Deadline. Except that such a thing would never happen, of course.)

MUST WRITE: Amnesty was declared for one more month, as the transition of power caused a goodly bit of confusion and mixed-up deadlines and delays. Truly the faanish way. Nonetheless, amnesty is now revoked, so...MUST WRITE: Steve Keeter, Rich Morrissey, Vincent Kimszal...and everyone on the Speculation list except Kim Thompson, who is sort of in limbo between a Spec-lister and a subber by actually paying for his TFs. As for Mark, Craig, Bill and Bill, if you're on the Spec list, it means that we want to know if you're interested in joining the UFO. If you are (or even if you aren't), write and let us know. If you'd like to address the entire membership, write your letter on a ditto master.

MUST PUBLISH: By November - Vince Kimszal and Jay Zilber (*ulp*). By January - Terrence McCoy and Bill Mutschler (17 pages).

LOST & GAINED: No news is good news.

VOTING SCHEDULE: Due immediately - whether to admit Chester & Cherie Cox and Frank Veripapa.

VOTING RESULTS: By a 6-3 decision, Larry Blake (AFTERWORLD) was turned down for membership at this time. It's not a bad zine, though, and I hope Larry will try again with his next issue. Just needs a little more time to develop.

FINANCIAL REPORT: 7 third class copies (for applicants and speclisters) paid for by co-op @ 28¢ = $1.96, or 19¢ per member. 1st class postage is 46¢, third class postage is 28¢ on this issue. Pay up your $3.30 share to Chris Rock for the TNJ ad. Don Fortier's sub is docked one issue for Ira Metetsky, as per Don's request.

WHY A 3-PAGE OFFICIAL ORGAN? Glad you asked. You'll note that my typer is a pica-sized model, whereas Kurt's was a strictly-upper-crust elite. Once I get the bugs of my format worked out, I may be able to keep these OO's at 2 pages. I've got a lot to learn, so bear with me as I learn the ropes. Already, I'm discovering how easy it can be to make some of the dumber mistakes Kurt made over the last three years. (HHOK, Kurt.) Watch closely in case I've made any typos on the roster; other general suggestions are welcome.

MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND And it also makes apas possible. Unfortunetely, I don't think I'm going to be able to continue printing TF for free, as Kurt had been doing. Evidently we've lost quite a few subscriber, so any chance that sub revenue could underwrite publishing costs are Ø. Probably beginning with the next mailing, I will start assessing an additional 15¢ materials charge every month (unless you want to print up your own zine through your own resources and mail me the finished copies -- and in that case, note that TF's print run is 35). This assessment may have to be adjusted according to various factors, such as length of each individual zine. As soon as I figure this thing out, you'll be the first to know. // In any case, this means that accounts will start running out quicker -- members keep a close watch on those little numbers! People will be dropped if their account remains below zero dollars for too long. So Says Iron Fist Zilber!

(continued on last page)

SOUND CHASER

Bill Mutschler, 327 Walker Hall, Princeton, NJ 08540

Votes: None
Ratings: BM 23--7.8
Endy 12--9.0

Well, Kut's last issue, and I find it an effort to be both reflective & and level headed. The latter beckons more, thus it commands respect. (Choke!)

Kurt: Of course. First off let me give you a well deserved thanks for time spent on behalf of the UFO. It's been an appreciated thing on my account.

Endy: The thought of a full length story boggled me at first, but eventually I dove in. Chadwick's illoes were excellent 95% of the time. The permanent critic within me called for tighter writing and a strong stand of either light or light with meaning, but since lengthy writings are beyond me..... (capability-wise)

Unfortunately, being of basic human stock and possesing a 'frail young ego,' I must break down to emotionalities: I have negative religious convictions, and therefore anything faintly connected with the Bible (Noah's Ark,...) makes me want to puke Linda Blair into jealousy. How can you put out Endy 12 and berate me for EC 4? How can you tell me to not to take it personally yet in the same breath (essentiallly) call me an asshole? Finally (the clincher): poetry.

Poetry is a form of literature. People of other color skins are forms of human life. Poetry can express any mode of story, Humans equally share the ultimate potential. Poetry (in this case) is not about <u>your</u> fantasy world, People of other color skin sometimes speak in strange sounds, smell bad, are disapproved of by the True Fan Handbook and my grandfather, not to mention the guy who runs the the used bookstore. All poetry sucks? Right????

A craftsmen is concerned primarily with materials, and- an artist with expression. 'Violet Woman' was my first project of any sort in which realization matched conceptualization. Of that I am proud. I am interested in many fields, and I have no right to <u>demand</u> understanding from everyone I meet. I <u>am</u> am free to give them a more complete picture of myself. Most people I do encounter usually tackle me one area at a time. If they don't comprehend, they accept what they can. Likewise, I have no reason to believe everyone will flood me with kind words for the realizations VW has wrought. If they can get get a hint of its core, great. I feel happier for them than for myself.

HOWEVER (time for a new paragraph), I think that I can expect applicable judgement of whatever work I put in front of the co-op. You despise poems, fine. I'd therefore take your criticism on the level of production, art, effort, whatever you can relate to. You'd have a limited viewpoint, but at least a justifiable one. To abstain because you feel that the poems (that you 'can't read') should be of prime focus in attention is a self indictment of hypocrisy. To blatantly wipe out any sensitive statement because of harsh prejudices

immediately convicts you of terminal linear thought.

Jay: Congrats! I'm damn glad I didn't vote after all.
I'm all for your proposals except for 'a thought.' I find meaninful UFO communication difficult as it is with everyone taking a 'month off' at random. In order to get individuals more cognizant of each other, themselves, and group potential, communication must be fast.
Composition (ex) major? Wow. Although I'm somewhat intimidated by an overabundance of skill (not talent!) here, most of 'them' are too regimented. Hopefully my ideas will persevere through structure by intent and their own structure.
Healthy thoughts all around by you; fruition is forthcoming?

All: I have plenty of ideas that will be told in the 'style' of EC #4. Although equally mental, they will have a stronger foundation in the acceptable. 'More graphics and less words, too. However, 'unreal extrapolations' are of fondest interest and will always have priority. Hopefully, EC will continue, and will continue to be mine, although not personal in the standard sense.
GX 4 is reaching an impeccable level of production, and should satisfy all you comics hounds. A computer typesetter is available, and presses are in existence. (the latter contrary to heavy rumor.) Unfortunately, involved work must be held to vacations.

Steve K.: This issue (36) is getting more meaningful each examination. 'Little time to write though, sorry. 'Keep a chuggin.

All: If anyone wants hints to insight or clarification of VW, I'm more than ready. 'Explanations' are a compromise of purpose, and will never be uttered.

Terrence: I may be in business yet. It may not be prose, but try reading Descartes' meditations out loud. Try even reading them. The effort as directly propotional to The outcome is nearly universal.
The 'lyric prose' was not so by literal definition. Shakespearian sonnets are a structural bitch, and were natural as a part of the whole story concept. Furthermore, each individual phrase is meaningful in itself as well as in position/relation. True, I may give hint to an object ef-e or feeling instead of blatantly yelling "AN OBJECT," but all existence is interpretational. This is getting a ~~bit~~ bit too deep into method, but self-construed knowledge has better definition. I know you can get it, so go to it! Exercise 1: examine all borders for meaning, they in turn will supply a foundational flow.
Yes, this issue is obviously self-indulgent, but at least it shows (I hope) an honest effort, as opposed to some % of the tru shit that UFOers have occaisionally put forth.
A 6? More words, please! I won't have to quit in disgust, I'll soon be thrown out!
'Have a nice airbrush illo that should meet your specs. 'Learned some new mask and ink techniques, and I'm ~~pond~~ confident that you'll find the result usable. It's yours as soon as the penciller returns it.

Page three of a severely typoed SOUND CHASER.

Rich: Overall the BM art remained about average by your standards and those of fandom. 'Some truly spectacular pieces, but utter garbage as well. ; 'Don't have my copy on hand, so I can't be crudely specific.

Believe me, this issue had great potential, but you were a little too lax on many editorial chores, mostly production and direction.

DF: Keep in touch.

Jim Main: Various inking technique stats will find their way to you. Unfortunately, I have no strips on hand, since the summer was slow. Most others are out of date or out of possesion.

Terrence: 'Could well have art and an article/review in a forthcoming Circus. Things are touchy though, I'll send a card if word gets out. If not, look for (who else) Moraz.

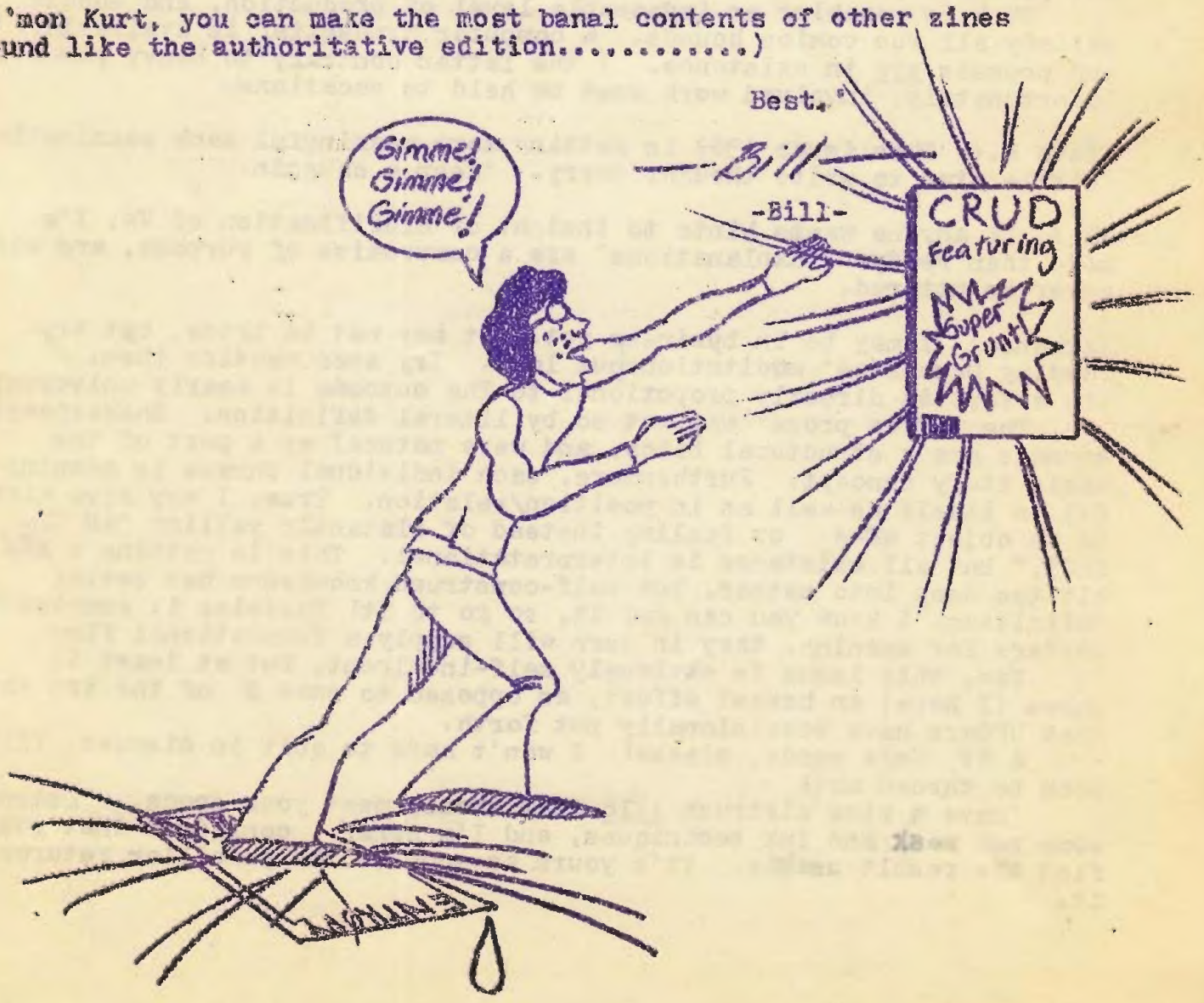
Checklist entry: ENTROPY COSMIX #4, 8 color/heavy stock 8½ x 5½ pages featuring 'Violet Woman,' a cosmic tale of a paradoxed man and the catalyst that brings him to mental re-awakening. In experimental sonnet/graphic format. For open-minded people everywhere.

(c'mon Kurt, you can make the most banal contents of other zines sound like the authoritative edition.....)

Best,

Bill

-Bill-



I'M STILL IN ROCKFORD! (BRAGGING OR COMPLAINING? BY T.P. McCOY)

HOME OFFICE: 1424 8TH ST. ROCKFORD IL 61104 (815) 964-0101

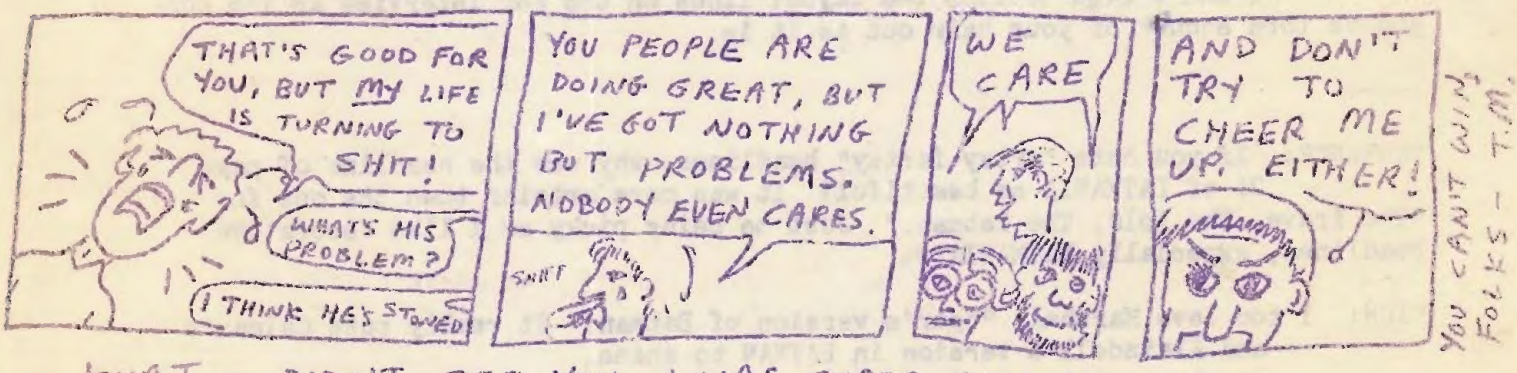
DEAR GANG:

YEP: MY GAL LEFT ME, MY CAR BROKE DOWN, MY DAD WENT IN FOR SURGERY, MY BUSINESS DOUBLED - BUT MY SPARE TIME DIDN'T - I GOT THE STOMACH FLU, MY BROTHER & HIS WIFE DELIVERED A NEPHEW TO ME, I CLOSED OUT BACK ISSUES AS PART OF THE STORE'S COMICS LINE, AND LOT'S OF OTHER NEAT THINGS HAPPENED SINCE LAST I WROTE.

SO - I TURNED OVER CC&T MATERIAL TO ROX, HAVE DECIDED TO STOP WAITING ON VINCE K., AND WILL GET MY NEXT ZINE OUT BEFORE THE JANUARY DEADLINE. MAYBE.

⇨ ① DROP CC&T #1 FROM "STILL AVAILABLE"

I'D LIKE TO OPENLY APPLAUDE JAY FOR HIS WORK TO DATE ON MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT. I WILL STATE MY OPINION AT THIS POINT IN TIME IS THAT "JAY HAS THE MAKINGS OF A FINE U.F.O. CHAIRMAN".


THAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, BUT MY LIFE IS TURNING TO SHIT!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
I THINK HE'S STONED
YOU PEOPLE ARE DOING GREAT, BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS. NOBODY EVEN CARES.
SNIFF
WE CARE
AND DON'T TRY TO CHEER ME UP, EITHER!
YOU CAN'T WIN. FOLKS - T.M.

KURT - DIDN'T SEE YOU. I WAS SUPER BUSY THEN. TOO.

ROX - HEARD YOU MET NEIL ROBERTSON - FORMERLY 1/2 OWNER OF CLYDE'S (NOW ALL MINE HUH, HUH!) IN CHICAGO. SHOULDA STOPPED BY ON YOUR WAY BACK TO W PLAINS.

STILL DON'T HAVE MY TYPER FIXED (MAY NEVER), BUT SINCE I WAS ON "MUST WRITE" I HAD TO SCRIBBLE THIS ONE PAGER OUT.

DON'T WASTE LIFE:

Terrence P. McCoy

DO TELL is the occasional TF letter from the shallows of the mind of Tom Mason/705 Draper Road/Blacksburg VA 24060.

FANTASY UNLTD: As Chris Rock stated last issue, if you're going to send us zines, please tell us why. A simple UFO on the envelope will do. Oh, well. To wit: With the exception of the Gold/Harris interview, the text features were too short (Kolchak, Holmes, and Josey Wales, for example). It read a little like PEOPLE magazine. The artwork ranged from excellent (the back cover) on down the scale. It is not the "first sensational issue" it purports to be, but it is a nice start. Ivote no.

ENTROPY COSMIX: Why this is issue 4 instead of 3 is still beyond me. It would've been much easier to call this issue 3 and make the humore issue 4. Oh well...

Experimental zines like this one are always hard to rate because there is really nothing to compare it with. To be blunt, though, I didn't like it. Cosmic-ness does zero for me. And with that, I abstain, courteously.

BATMANIA: Every now and then a zine comes along that can be reviewed in one sentence. There is no time like the present. BM 23 is the best issue of BATMANIA that you've published to date and I rate it accordingly: 9.0

I won't even mention the layout lines on the Fox interview as I'm sure you've torn enough of your hair out as it is.

TERRENCE: If you hate "artsy-fartsy" headlines, why was the headline of page 21 of BATMANIA so beautiful? It was more artsier than the one for "The Brave, The Bold, The Batman." Just me being picky as I like decorative headlines, expecially BATMANIA's.

RICH: I too love Marshall Roger's version of Batman. It really puts Calman's and Blaisdell's version in BATMAN to shame.

CHRIS: I have received 5 orders traceable to the UFO ad. Trouble is most people don't tell me where they saw an ad when they order. And I get the strangest orders. Like an envelope with a dollar in it, nothing else. It's a good thing I saved the envelope. And an order where a guy protected his coins with thick cardboard and used only one stamp to mail it, and one guy sent Canadian money, and one guy...

LATE NOTE: "A Boy & His Dog" can be found as the last story in Ellison's "Feast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World."

JIM: (who is now assistant editor and right-hand man at FANTION) L. Bruce Sapp is hardly deserving of the title "writer," which is why he fits in so well with the likes of Bishoff, Grier (has he ever completed a column by himself?), and Light.

LARRY BLAKE: The zine is good and shows quite a bit of promise. But the contents are uneven, which is why I vote no.

I haven't gotten around to reading ENFY 12 yet.

C&C COX: Something's missing, but I can't quite put my finger on it. The writing fails to make up for the lack of layout or art. I vote no.

RADION 6 is out. Let me have it fellas. I can take it. If you haven't gotten a copy, let me know post haste.

JAY: Congratuäations!

KURT: And while we're on the subject, let me just add with a note of seriousness that you did a hell of a job as chairman. How you managed to get TF out once a month for three years with ENDEAVOR, apa's, and school is beyond me. Enjoy your "retirement"

CHRIS: Glad to hear you're starting PR releases. As to sending copies to reviewers, I think you should leave it up to the editor and not the group to decide.

WOWIEKAZOWIE has an interesting history-3 editors in four issues. Has to be a record. I hope both Thompson and Elyberg give us a try as they sound like intelligent lads who can put out a good product.

WASTED SPACE AND SELF-INDULGENCE COMING UP

SOUND CHASER
(intended for TF #38)

Bill Kutschler, 327 Walker Hall, Princeton, NJ 08540.
October 13, 1977

Votes: Cox, Weripapa: No.
Ratings: Radion 6: 8.

Hopefully, this will be included in TF #38 along with my letter that was intended for the last issue. I don't have much to say, and have made no notes for this letter, and I'm sure it will show.

Tom: To me, your handling of Radion has reached a plateau. While I think the art this issue was a bit below the last's, overall the whole thing came across honorably. Pro art is not a necessity, but too much of the same style with little of no reduction doesn't leave me with the best impression. The art was sure, but there wasn't enough variety.

'Enjoyed the interviews. Keep it up.

Votes: I'm sorry, C & C, but in order for a zine such as yours to be really effective, some degree of productional integrity is a must. I like 'personal zines' as to idea, but most people feel that since they're not going slick and it's all for the fun, screw appearance. Tighten up the package and I think you'll find me with you.

Frank: I think that I mentioned this to you in a letter, but I'll reiterate for the a sake of the co-op. Potential, whether wasted or unused, bothers me tremendously. By the scope and apparent intent of FU, I'd say that you're headed in the right direction, but have to tighten up as to material. There are a great deal of talented people in fandom that have no forum for their work, and on the opposite hand there are a great deal of people with a forum but lack good material or perception as to what the hell they're actually trying to do.

'Some nice moments, but the art was a big letdown. Some folks might be down on me for not realizing your potential, but this is the only input I have, and I have no idea as to what your progression might be. SOOOOOOOO, keep in touch and knock again, soon.

Jay: Hopefully you'll have recieved my other letter and money. Again, let me offer congrats and whatever support you need to carry out your ideas.

Unfortunately, I may not be around after January. I didn't expect such tight voting on EC 4, but did on #3. If I bomb out on the released-in-January issue number three, it will have been nice knowing all of you, and I'll return with a strong-yet-insincere vengenance. Who knows??? Don't take me seriouslythough, today has been rather rough on me.

Kurt": How's tricks? Things are interesting here, but I won't bore you with the drudgerous facts that an old hand would have experienced long ago. 'Will let you know the story as soon as I Have a good idea as to what life will be. So far, work is demanding but comprehensible. Physics is the make-it-or-break-it class, but is liveable as long as it's kept in perspective.

—Bill—

More Missives From The Main #4,by Jim Main/85A Prospect Hill Rd./New Milford,Conn. 06776/203-354-3406 for those who want to call and chat some time.
****

Ah,the end of an era....the last of the Erichsen ML's...now Kurt,once again, will know what it feels like to be a member of the lower class,with his very actions commanded by "Iron Fist Zilber!"

That,of course,was all in jest. I imagine Kurt can finally breathe easier now that the load has been passed on. Jay will,of course,be a damned good leader as he's already proven to be a good person and terrific fan-ed. I wish them both luck!

Well,now to business. I've thought over the situation a lot and I've decided to put GNOME out to pasture. What I've done is my zine has merged with Tom Mason's zine RADION. I will be in charge of supplying him with half of his zines contents. His up-coming issue,pubbed in Jan.,with be over 50 pages, and since the yearly required page amount is 25 pages,I will make just over that amount so my next 25 pages will be due a year after that. This won't be the only zine I'll be involved with....HOLOCAUST #1 will hopefully be out in June-July of next year with 36 pages of strips,covers and illos for you SF/Space fantasy fans. A lot of work has been done on the book thus far,though the hard task is getting up the publishing money. It's not that I won't have enough money to put it out when the time comes,it's just that the waiting is killing me!!!! By the way,that Deadmen article from the now-deceased GNOME, along with the Sutton illo will be part of my contents for RADION. I'm sure the author will be glad to hear that news.

Well,I finally recieved AFTERWORLD from Larry Blake and thought the issues weren't at all bad. I'll give him a yes vote,though I don't know if it'll help or not. Oh,by the way, I gave BATMANIA a 9 rating a couple ML's ago but it's not up there on the grid.

Kurt-Well,if you do go to the Creation Con,don't bother looking me up!I wont be there afterall! I'll be sending out your strip to the artist at the end of the month. You'll be surprised when you find out who's doing it.(No,it's not Mike Carnell!!!)

Chris Rock-Supposedly Swanson has moved to the Carolinas,but Doug Nazlewood just told me in a letter I recieved from him last week that he sent Swanson a certified letter and Mike did sign for it!!!! So,he must be still at his old address. I can't understand why he'd want to keep my zine originals but he also owes me thirty bucks from an order of original art he never sent to me!

About GNOME,well,the thing is,I'm not a person who recieves a very large paycheck every week,and what I make goes for food,bills,and rent as I live by my lonesome in this old apartment building. What's left from that is for going out and saving for my zines. I've managed to budget my money so that I can put out zines at least twice a year,unless its a bigger project like HOLOCAUST is. I like putting out zines though as I get a sense of accomplishment from it,among other things.It's unique and I love it! It does cost me a bit to put out zines though,as the printers around my area are very high-priced...this has an effect on how many zines I put out and how much I charge per issue...most of my zines just bearly break even,which is the way I like it. Ah,enough of this...let's talk about you...

And on that note...farewell.

BEST,
Jim Main

EDIFICE ROX #1 / CHRIS ROCK / PO BOX 14 / WEST PLAINS, MO 65775 / OCTOBER '77

Due to the depleted size of TET FRAG #37, few mailing comments this trip. Also, insofar as the OZARK FANDOM name will soon be discontinued, I've changed the name of my UFO letters. Also, also, note that in last TF the zip code in the checklist is wrong. See above. Or, pardon, the TF checklist zip is correct; the zip in the West Plains address is wrong.

Terrance -- All arrived safe and sound. Will begin shooting and typesetting next week (Oct 18). This week too hectic at work. Still puzzling over precise format, can guarantee something flashy.

Jim -- After Awards Strip and one other commitment, could do some strip work. Are you after anything more sophisticated than stuff like in AFTERWORLDS? The description you gave of it sounds kinda ambitious.

Regarding the spats (however delicately administered) at the UFO by Spanier and Spagnola, the following --

The UFO too structured? Granted, the constitution is quite long and often dully phrased. But, the structure is simply this - An editor who is not just a one-shotter (publishes about one or more a year) and not just a glorified letter writer (publishes about 25 pages like this one, or more, a year) promises to run the checklist in his zines. He trades zines with other members. He writes at least one letter every two months to the WL. He chips in for big (usually full page) ads. His zines should be neat in appearance, readable, interesting, use good files. That's it.

The UFO has a very wide range of participants. We don't have anything against a relatively sloppy layout if the zine accomplishes something (DFCFR). There is no anti-SF bias or anti-mimeo prejudice (ENDY). Fan strips are fine, even if the fan isn't a near or neo pro, and the art looks it (CU). Even if the zine rambles far off the original fannish path of SF or comic-books, no one's hackles are raised (OZ).

And, most importantly, the UFO fanacs don't think they're the next Alan Light or Mike Freidrich. There is no pretense about the importance or value of the content of the zines. A reader casual enuff not to be interested in acres of personal chatter dotted with amateur Kirby character swipes is perhaps too casual, casual enuff to not be a real fan at all. At least, not the kind of double dipped, deep fried fan who is the average UFO ed.

Granted, BEASTIALITY (for instance) is a really fine effort. The format obviously set you back a bundle. It deserves to sell in the rarified world of fine, big money fanzines (which is precisely where I got mine). But the minute I hesitate to trade a copy of OZ #9/10 for a copy of [illegible] FANDOM FOO-FAH #1 (the first and last issue) is the day I better check out my fannish sincerity.

Money's fine, money's fun. But it's not the yardstick I measure my world by.

Someone who lays out in a big way to make his mind's conception of zine come to life has demonstrated a capacity to care. He has not been promoted to god on earthism.

As to the 'United Artists' method of forming editors' associations, The UFO breaks the space barrier. No longer do those who are lucky enuf to have been born into a hotbed of fan activity have the only chance to be a part of a group. There may still be a NY and CA clique, and TX trios and CHI swarms, etc. Great and more power to them. Now people in Kenner, LA, Mtn Grove, MO and E Lansing, MI can get together and chat about zines and personalities, compare their idea of a good zine and a bad one, learn about not typing ditto masters backwards and good stuff like that.

Let's shave a cat.

PR NEWS -- "News Releases of recent UFO member zines have been prepared for xeroxing. I'll mail 'em out on this weekend. Of course, I can't promise review copies yet, maybe individual editors can mention their policies on that in future TFs.

Brief, but short.

RATINGS— WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS AT THIS TIME, I RATE ENDEAVOR #12 AT 8.

I RATE BILL'S LATEST AS FOLLOWS= ART - 2, TEXT-2, MIX-2, BROWNIES— NONE. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO GO OVER THE MERITS OF THE POETRY. BUT THE GRAPHICS LOOKED LIKE THE BLACKS DIDN'T QUITE MESH, & THE CONTRAST WAS WAY TOO LOW FOR READABILITY (THAT DARK PAPER).
TOTAL — 6

Chris Rox

THE PERENNIAL PURPLE PROSE

* as deadline-dating an ish ever. 7710.13. Faning in color by Ditt-Rite... c 1977 by Foofnik Pubs *

*** This is my 20th TF-note since my first appearance in TF #15. It's the first one not printed by Kurt, and the third one that will (hopefully) have a DF cover with it. All things considered, I've come to appreciate the informal news and natter of UFONL, and I hope to be around for some time to come, even if not as a member.

- To Kurt: you really did a great job on the past TF issues, and you deserve a lot of credit for keeping the UFO as a viable organization. There were problems, sure, but all in all TF was/is one of your best productions as a fan-ed. I hope you'll keep Stonecypher active in the apas if not in the UFONL. Keep up the dynamite endeavors!

- To Jay: nk slouch, are you! In the group for a year and running things already! Better do a good job, though, because Skeeter may get a new ditto by next election. Hopefully you'll follow in Kurt's footsteps (size 10½) and raise the UFO to ever-higher levels of success and notoriety, and let's see another FF issue in 1978!

"Let's hear three cheers (not the Bronx kind) for the CM/Chairmen old and new!"

...and now back to our usual fighting, name calling, and hyper-critical reviews. (HA!)

*** THE STATE OF THE CO-CHAIR MESSAGE (DF preview of the Inaugural Issue)

Last year at this time, the UFO had 11 members and 7 applicants. Only 5 of those members are still in the group, but two previous members returned, along with the induction of three applicants. This shows a relatively high turnover in the UFO, whatever the causes. The primary problem seems to be finding members who (like Kurt) will continue to publish zines over a long period of time. As a fan-ed who was unable to do so, I think it's a fairly common situation, when time and money difficulties preclude publishing. One of the main aims of the group should be to attract members who CAN continue to publish on a regular basis. These members can provide needed outlets for UFO publicity and advertising, as well as giving us more zines to read and review. As Jay pointed out last time, it'll take some looking around to find such members/zines. I hope everybody can help out on this.

* As for this fan-ed, there's a good chance I'll start publishing again in 1978. By then I'll be ensconced in 7 or 8 apas and will have a steady income from extortion of the apa members, as well as those connected with CAFA. Seriously, watch for DFO#4 to come back into the neo-fannish circles on a regular (bimonthly?) basis...

*** It's kind of awkward reviewing zines when I'm no longer able to give ratings to the UFO productions. Aside from not receiving many zines...(I'll have to keep up with them. $1.00 to Bill for the two-zine combination -- but I hate poetry -- and another buck to Tom for RAMPON #6...soon) The only thing I'll probably be doing is "suggestions" on the noteworthy applicant zines. This time the list has two possibilities...comments on each, in order of appearance in my box...

FANTASY UNLIMITED #1

...an LoC went out on this issue, and generally criticized with regard to the editorial functions. The use of too many full-pagers (not connected to articles or stories) was one complaint, another was the line art and lettering by Al White on his derivative "superhero" strip". Repro was in the 8½ x 11 zine format was okay, but the typeset contained quite a few grammatical and spelling mistakes. Also dialog that ran together in a way I found distracting. The Livingston strip, articles, and DC interview were handled fairly well, but made the zine a little TOO diverse in its contents.

Overall, the format, layout, and production were adequate for a first issue. The collective result was just a bit less than it could have been, especially the selection and editing of the fiction (ORDER OF OPERA had good ideas, but I thought the presentation was kinda "flat": anybody else get that impression?) (ORDER...)

(2)

Critiques and reservations notwithstanding, I thing Frank could provide zines of UFO caliber, and I recommend his membership in the co-op. (An UNOFFICIAL YES)

FEEDBACK #5

Chester and Cherie are relative newcomers to zines, with his "Impossible Adventures" and her IFICC NLs their only productions prior to FEEDBACK. Inexperience with mimeo reproduction makes the results of this zine appear less than they might have with another form of reproduction and some assistance from other fans.

PSC BOX 1500 SHAW AFB, SC 29152

The articles by Kirk, Fifield, and Chester had the potential for really good, to-the-point commentary. The reviews were short and succinct. The art layout could have been adequate, as could the use of dual covers.

The only thing that ruins the result is the use of mimeo stencils... articles and reviews that might have been post-edited were typed in capital letters on one gray page after another...art that might have been acceptably inked is sacrificed to the whims of mimeo styli...layout that could have been flexible becomes gray page after gray page of muddy type and scribbles...

I'm certain that most of the UFO will feel as I do, that the zine in its present form could not hope for membership. But it may be that the only way for Chester to do it at that size and price is to use an unfamiliar medium. Anybody who can help out (alternatives or mimeo help): drop Chester a line...

UFO VOTE TALLY SHEET

	KURT	STEVE	VINCE	JIM	TOM	TERRENCE	RICH	BILL	CHRIS	JAY	AVG. OF Y	N	A	# MONTHS ON TALLY SHEET
(A) LARRY BLAKE	N	Y		Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3	6		—
(A) CHESTER & CHERIE COX				N			N				1	2		—
(A) FRANK VERIPAPA	N			Y	N			N			1	3		—
BATMANIA #23			9	9	9	X	8	9	8		8	6	3	III
ENDEAVOR #12	X		8.7				9	8			8	5	6	III
ENTROPY COSMIX #4	A		7	A	6		X	6			6	6	6	III
RADION #6	8.8		9	X			8				8	6	0	II

* Before I go, I'd like to thank UFOers who voted in the CAFA Awards. I'm tempted to run the ballot thru the NL, but I'd like to avoid any objections. Anybody opposed to seeing the Award results and ballots in here? Belated thanks to Chester and Cherie for carrying the ballot in FEEDBACK #5 (letter enroute). Anybody who hasn't voted by now is probably too late, but I'll have the 1977 work Awards in operation by November. Anybody that wants to carry the ballot in a zine?
* FLAWOL for this Foofnik! See everybody next time around...WRITE!!!

THE SKEPTIC TANK #43

Kurt Erichsen
MSU/Owen #648 E
E Lansing MI 48824

517-355-4167
Appelation Mountain Pub #298
October 13th, 1977

Intented for Tetragrammaton Fragments Vol. 4 #1

I don't have time to publish TF this month! That certainly feels nice, and perhaps I can use some of the time I won't have to spend on pubbing the zine on writing my contribution for the co-op. The first order of business is to catch up on some applicant fan-zines

[illegible] been pretty well gone over, so I guess I [illegible] feature in the issue was of course Rick McCallum's [illegible] Funnies," and the best illo was your Don Martin portrait of [illegible] which was not only extremely well drawn, but singularly appropriate as well. In the [illegible] the writing is abysmal, though "Paranoia Handbook" had a [illegible] of amusing spots and "Just Another Day" was reasonably well done for what there [illegible] but it was too incomplete to be a satisfying story. Never could make much sense out of "Pilgrim". What makes him "the best superhero fandom has to offer"? (I've always been partial to Beacon). If you must use continued stories, at least fill us in on who the characters are and what's going on! You might try doing a bit of editing, too, while you're at it, by fixing up some of that grammar and spelling. (He rose his Saturday Night Special... how coy). Most of the art in the issue was fairly good, though. I'd give you: Art: [illegible]; writing: 0.5/4; production:2/3 (good layout & printing, but you did no editing...) which gives you [illegible] and a [illegible]. Not a bad zine, but I think a bit more strength as an editor is needed here (saying no to a couple of those artists and rejecting that ghodawful ed for "Dusty Rock Dramas #1")

FANTASY UNLIMITED #1
Frank Veripapa

It's evident that a lot of effort went into this zine, to say nothing of the expense. And you had one feature which I really enjoyed, namely "A Parable", which was genuinely fun to read as opposed to so many badly-written fannish strips. Unfortunately, you've got a couple examples of the latter species here as well. I keep wondering when fanzine publishers are going to learn that all the good art in the world isn't going to make a badly-written comic strip readable. In other writings, I gave up on "The Order of Opstra" when the tense changed from past to present in the middle of the story and then back to past again a couple of paragraphs later. "We have the questions," the Fantasy Film Review, and "It's Elementary" were too shallow to arouse much interest, and "Murder on the Seventh Avenue Express" simply condesnes all that is ludicrous about clichéd comic book writing into half a page. But I liked your interview with Harris & Gold. I don't know what it is, but there's something about an interview where the interviewer gets the interviewed to say something nasty about a well-known figure [Jack Kirby] that's fascinating and a joy to read. I think this interview succeeds in that you got H&G into a discussion beyond the usual "Who are your influences/where'd you go to school/why are you such a genius/what's spiderman going to be doing next week?". There's a lot of art here, and most of it's not bad, though some of it's on the weak side and should've been rejected. Al White's work looks quite bad on first glance, but a closer examination shows that he's got a pretty good idea of what he's doing. Perhaps it's the bad lettering or lack of contrast that gives his work its amateurish appearance. It was certainly a very trite story, though, continued at that, and I've little doubt that we'll never see its conclusion. (You know, it's probably just White's inking that's screwing up his artwork.) On the whole, this is a good effort for a first fanzine (But strike the "First sensation/issue" bit from the cover, eh?), though I don't think it meets UFO standards. You, too, need to be a stronger editor. Be more critical of contributions, and if a story or a drawing isn't up to snuff, be prepared to give it a polite "No thanks".

I seem to have left the new Batmania in Oregon. Reviewing it'll have to wait, I'm afraid.

RADION #6
Tom Mason

Radion certainly seems to be getting down to a regular format these days. But the formula works, so perhaps I shouldn't complain. There's no denying that Radion is a good zine, but it's missing something that keeps it from being a great zine. I'm not sure what it is...personality, perhaps? Maybe a few letters would help. The illos throughout are all well-done, but drawings of superheroes get a bit tedious. The cartoon on page 23 was a step in the right direction, but someone's going to have to explain to me what the joke was supposed to be.

SORRY - THE OMO MACHINE MANGLED THE TOP PIECE OF YOUR MASTER.

I think I'd like to see a bit more of you in the issue. You have a good fannish/humorous writing style, and I'd like to see more of it...perhaps the addition of a few letters would give you more opportunity to use it. For that matter, I'd like to see what you could do in a real apa. Perhaps what bothers me about the interviews is lack of depth, though I'm not certain what direction further information ought to go (I know nothing about conducting interviews). Or maybe it's just that the subjects covered are not ones I'm all that actively interested in. (I wouldn't mind seeing an interview with Johnny Hart, for example; and for the lack of depth, I'd be disappointed if you didn't ask Hart about his alleged alcoholism and reports that most of "his" work is done mostly by two uncredited assistants. I don't mean you should become another Joe Brancatelli, but I think sometimes interesting information is sacrificed in the interest of being "polite" to the interviewee. For example, "I've heard reports that you have a drinking problem, and.....&c....could you comment on these rumors?") But back to the zine itself. What's here is done well. The only concrete fault I can think of is that you included no art by Michael Wheelan, whom I'd never heard of before. I know he usually does paintings, which you'd have been unable to print, but even a Hazlewood-inked sketch or two would've been nice. (By the way, I think Doug Haz'ewood's inking is getting too slick for its own good. He's certainly good with a brush, though.) Art: 3/3.5; Writing: 2.8/3.5; Production:3/3 (but chastise your printer for not getting very solid blacks on the front cover,eh?) Total: 8.8

I also have an issue of Feedback to review, but as the popular saying here is, my room has swallowed it up.

A day passes, and it's now October 14. Today, in a mad frenzy of spendthriftiness, I bought myself a Rex Rotary M-2 mimeograph. It's a handcrank machine, it has to be inked manually, and it's older than I am, but damned if it ain't a silkscreen mimeo that uses 4-hole stencils. I'm a bit anxious to try the thing out, but I've got to finish this off first. Or at least, I ought to finish this off first. (It cost me $65, by the way). An M-2 is a very small machine, by the way--about the size of a ditto machine.

MAILING COMMENTS -- TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS 3/37

CHRIS ROCK-- Yes, those paste-up lines on the new Batmania are certainly annoying, but there's such a thing as reducing stat offset, and if Rich had the zine printed that way, he couldn't've done much about those lines--except perhaps, as Jay suggested, by using better paper on the originals. [] I agree. Only UFO members vote on the annual UFO awards--kind of a co-op egoboo poll. If someone can think of a way of allowing non-members who're faithful UFOzine readers to vote, though, it might spark some interest. [] The TCJ ad netted me about three single orders for Endy, and two large orders (all issues available). Not great results, but not too bad. As for the UFO catalogue: I got a few responses, but not enough to justify continuing the catalogue under its old format. I'd like to see your ideas for a new format, though.

JAY ZILBER-- Best of luck as Chairman of the UFO! As I said before, I think you've got the ability and the connections to really do a good job for our little co-op. Putting out TF month after month gets to be some kind of drudgery after awhile, and you'll have it worse than I did, since you don't have a thermofaxer to save you time. However, I look forward to seeing your ideas for the UFO. Looking at bus and trains fares, it's clear that if I get to Creation con, it'll be by my own car. I'll start poking around for local comics fans who'll be willing to go and share costs & driving. If I find some likeprospects, I'll be there. If not, well, I guess I see you at some other con. Meanwhile, Detroit Triple Fan Fair is later this month. It's certainly close, but I'm doubtful as to whether anyone I know is going to be there, so it might not be worth going to. But I've still got all of a week to make up my mind on that one...

And on that note, I logoff.

Kurt Erichsen

DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE DEPT. There seems to be some confusion as to the current numbering system in use for TF these days. This is not exactly TF #38, although a number of folks seem determined to call it that, in spite of the fact that Kurt repeatedly emphasized the notion that the Zilber regime should begin with Volume 4 Number 1. Well, I give up. I'm going to call it by its "whole number" (which makes this issue #54) and leave the "volume" bit demoted to the same parenthetical status that the Whole Number had previously been reduced. So...when I remind you that the deadline for the next mailing is Saturday, November 19th, 1977, that deadline will apply to Tetragrammaton Fragments, The UFO Newsletter #55 (Volume 4, #2). Got that?

DEADLINE: For Tetragrammaton Fragments, The UFO Newsletter #55 (Vol. 4 #2) is Saturday, November 19th, 1977.

SAVED FROM THE DREADED DEADLINE DOOM: This mailing is going out exactly one day late, because my ditto machine started acting up and needed a minor overhaul. The day after the deadline, Chris Rock's and Jim Main's zines came in. Watch those deadlines, people. We got lucky this time, but I can't guarantee that my machine will conveniently spew its guts out at such convenient times. Next month, the mailing goes out as soon as the mail comes in on the day of the deadline. (Barring acts of ghod, of course.)

ON THE ROAD: I'm spending this next week in New York, to bum around with the K-a New York Clique and to push my wares at DC again. (Who knows -- I may come back a big-name pro...) If anyone needs to get in touch with me before October 31st, call Ken Gale's apartment at (212)-794-8633. After that, I'll be back at Oberlin, (216) 775-6413.

Keep your ears on.

JR

TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS
The UFO Newsletter
Jay L. Zilber
Oberlin College #740
Oberlin OH 44074